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To: Maine Immunization Program Providers
From: Maine Immunization Program
Subject: School immunization requirement for varicella
Date: October 28, 2021

The Maine Department of Education issued a new school immunization requirement for varicella (chickenpox) on September 25, 2021. State law now requires that students in grades kindergarten through 12 have two doses of the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for school entry.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that children should receive the first dose at 12 through 15 months old and a second dose at 4 through 6 years old. If a student has not had two doses of chickenpox vaccine, they must do ONE of the following:

- Receive two doses of chickenpox vaccine (or one dose if the student has already had one dose),
- Present the school with laboratory evidence demonstrating immunity or reliable documented history of immunity provided by a physician or other primary care provider OR,
- Submit a medical exemption from the student's primary care provider.

We encourage providers to utilize ImmPact or their own EMR to run a reminder/recall to capture any school age patients that have not received their complete chickenpox series.

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at 207-287-3746.

As always, thank you for helping to keep Maine's children free from vaccine-preventable disease.